Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend claims 1-5 and 9 as follows.

Please cancel claims 6-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of assessing speech quality transmitted via a packet based telecommunications network comprising the steps of:

storing a sequence of intercepted packets associated with a call, each packet containing

speech data, and

an indication of a transmission time of said intercepted packet;

storing with each intercepted packet an indication of an intercept time of said intercepted packet;

extracting a set of parameters from said sequence of intercepted packets; and

generating an estimated mean opinion score in dependence upon said set of parameters;

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the extracting step comprises the sub steps of:

generating a jitter parameter for each packet of ~~said~~ a sequence of stored packets in dependence upon

~~the~~ a difference between the transmission time of a stored packet and the transmission time of a preceding stored packet of the sequence; and

~~the~~ a difference between the intercept time of said stored packet and the intercept time of said preceding stored packet; and

generating a consecutive positive jitter parameter for ~~a~~ said stored packet in dependence upon ~~the~~ a polarity of said jitter parameter for said stored packet and ~~the~~ a polarity of said jitter parameter for ~~any~~ immediately preceding stored packets wherein the consecutive positive jitter parameter defines the number of

immediately preceding stored packets for which a polarity of the jitter
parameter is positive.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the extracting step
further comprises the sub steps of:
~~determining a maximum value of said consecutive jitter parameter for a~~
~~sequence of stored packets.~~
generating a plurality of consecutive positive jitter parameters for a plurality of
said stored packets;
determining a maximum value of said plurality of said consecutive jitter
parameters.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the extracting step
further comprises the sub steps of:
~~determining a variance value of said consecutive jitter parameter for a sequence~~
~~of stored packets.~~
generating a plurality of consecutive positive jitter parameters for a plurality of
said stored packets;
determining a variance value of said plurality of said consecutive jitter
parameters.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2 in which the extracting step
further comprises the sub steps of:
~~determining an average for a sequence of said maximum values.~~
generating a plurality of maximum values for a plurality of sub-sequences of
said stored packets;
determining an average for a sequence of said maximum values.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3 in which the extracting step further comprises the sub steps of:

~~determining an average for a sequence of said maximum values.~~

generating a plurality of variance values for a plurality of sub-sequences of said stored packets;

determining an average for a sequence of said variance values.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for assessing speech quality transmitted via a packet based telecommunications network comprising:

means for capturing and storing a sequence of intercepted packets associated with a call, each packet containing

speech data, and

an indication of a transmission time of said intercepted packet;

means for storing with each intercepted packet an indication of an intercept time of said intercepted packet;

means for extracting a set of parameters from said sequence of intercepted packets; and

means for generating an estimated mean opinion score in dependence upon said set of parameters;

~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means for extracting comprises:

means for generating a jitter parameter for each of a sequence of stored packets in dependence upon

the ~~the~~ a difference between the transmission time of a stored packet and the transmission time of a preceding stored packet of the sequence; and

~~the~~ a difference between the intercept time of said stored packet and the intercept time of said preceding stored packet; and

means for generating a consecutive positive jitter parameter for said stored packet in dependence upon ~~the~~ a polarity of said jitter parameter for said stored packet and ~~the~~ a polarity of said jitter parameter for ~~any~~ immediately preceding stored packets wherein the consecutive positive jitter parameter defines the number of immediately preceding stored packets for which a polarity of the jitter parameter is positive.